

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on October 5, 2006. Claims 1-35 were pending in that action. All claims were rejected. With the present response, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 17, 19-24, 26, 27 and 30-32 are amended. Claims 4 and 5 are canceled. The remaining claims are unchanged. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-3 and 6-35 are respectfully solicited in light of the following comments.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 4 and 24 based on a few noted informalities. The Examiner suggested that “a core data set” should be changed to “the core data set” in claim 1 at line 3. Applicant is a little confused by this suggestion because it would seem that the proposed change would introduce an antecedent basis problem into the claim. Thus, Applicant has not made this particular change. Clarification or withdrawal of the suggestion is respectfully solicited.

Similarly, the Examiner suggested that the phrase “the association” should be changed to “an association” in claim 24 at line 10. Applicant respectfully points out that “an association” is first introduced in line 6 of the claim. Accordingly, making the proposed change in line 10 would seem to introduce an antecedent basis problem into the claim. Thus, Applicant has not made the proposed change. Clarification or withdrawal of the suggested amendment is respectfully solicited. Applicant has otherwise amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion.

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112. In response, Applicant has amended the relevant preambles in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions. The Examiner also suggested that the word “that” be removed from claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 17, 19-23, 26, 27, 30 and 31. Applicant has made amendments to remove the word “that” from those claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections under §112 are respectfully solicited.

Beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,453,353 (“the Win reference”). For reasons that will be discussed in detail below, it is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited Win reference.

With the present response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include a step of obtaining a second rule-specific data set representing a second role assumed by the constituent. Further, as claimed, the second rule-specific data set is stored so as to be separate from another claimed rule-specific data set. As amended, independent claim 1 is somewhat similar to dependent claim 5 as filed (which has now been canceled). In rejecting claim 5, the Examiner pointed to the Win reference at column 10, line 51-column 11, line 10. To the extent that this passage describes a first rule-specific data set and a second rule-specific data set, such sets are not described as being stored separately from one another. The Win reference describes a “role cookie” that contains “a list” of the user’s roles. Role information is not separately stored from one role data set to another. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as amended is patentably distinguishable from the cited Win reference.

Dependent claims 2, 3 and 4-23 are dependent upon independent claim 1 and are believed to be in allowable form at least for the same reasons discussed above in relation to that affiliated independent claim. Further, it is respectfully submitted that at least some of these dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited Win reference based on the merit of their own claim limitations.

Independent claim 24 recites a method for distributing access rights based at least in part on an association between an organization record and a contact record. With the present response, claim 24 has been amended to further clarify that the claimed organization record contains a collection of information related to an organization. In response to the organization record claim element, the Examiner points to the Win reference at column 13, lines 54-67. The Win reference describes developing a list of roles but does not in any way describe creation of an organization record that contains a collection of information related to an organization. Certainly the reference fails to teach or suggest collectively providing access rights based at least in part on association between such a record and a contact record. The cited reference does describe distributing access rights based on rules but does not describe distributing access rights based on an association between records as claimed. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 24 is patentably distinguishable from the cited Win reference.

Dependent claims 25-31 are dependent upon independent claim 24 and are believed to be in allowable form at least for the same reasons described above in relation to that affiliated independent claim. Further, it is respectfully submitted that at least some of these dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited reference based on the merits of their own claim limitations. For example, claim 25 further defines the association upon which access is selectively provided as comprising an employment association between an individual affiliated with the contact record and an employer affiliated with the organization record. Claims 26-31 even further limit the claimed record association. None of these associations are taught as a basis for selectively providing access rights as claimed. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable for these additional reasons.

Independent claim 32 recites a system for distributing access rights. The claimed system includes a data management component for receiving data and distributing the data into a plurality of constituent and role-specific records. As amended, the claim further defines the data that is distributed as including information generated from interaction with a constituent acting in a first capacity, as well as information gathered from a subsequent interaction with the constituent acting in a capacity different than the first. It is respectfully submitted that the Win reference fails to teach or suggest distributing data into constituent and role-specific records based on interactions with a constituent, let alone with the combination of interactions as claimed. Notably, the claimed system is described in Applicant's specification in relation to the flow chart of FIG. 3. The claimed data management component is simply neither taught nor suggested within the teachings of the cited Win reference.

Dependent claims 33-35 are dependent upon independent claim 32 and are believed to be in allowable form at least for the same reasons discussed above in relation to that affiliated independent claim. Further, it is respectfully submitted that at least some of these dependent claims recite elements that are individually distinguishable from the cited reference.

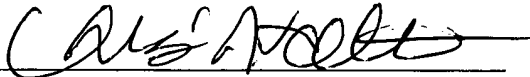
Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims, namely, claims 1-3 and 6-35 are respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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